

Tues - Springfield - 4 days

Dec 27

Phone

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# Curios and Relics

Plants

Trees

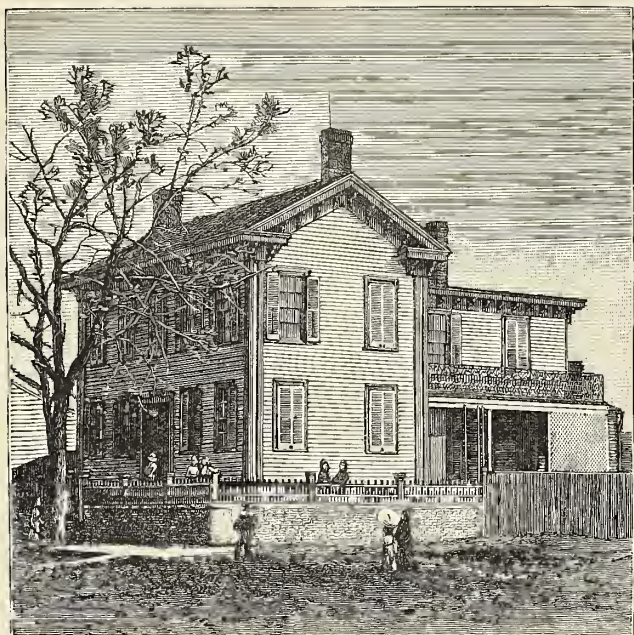
Springfield Home

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the  
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

## THE LINCOLN MONUMENT.

THE LINCOLN home at Springfield, Illinois, was built in 1846 by the Rev. CHARLES DUSOU, who, in 1842, performed the marriage ceremony between ABRAHAM LINCOLN and MARY TODD. Mr. LINCOLN bought the house soon after it was built. It was a story-and-a-half cottage, and during one of Mr. LINCOLN's trips from home, Mrs. LINCOLN, as a surprise to him, had it run up to a full story, which so improved it that on his return Mr. LINCOLN did not recognize the



THE LINCOLN HOME.

place. In front of the cottage there still stands an elm-tree planted by this illustrious man. When he became President, the little homestead was neglected, and fell into decay. It has now, however, been put into habitable order, and painted white. Its original color was brown.

Being curious to see the law office of the firm of LINCOLN & HERNDON, the writer hunted it up. It was only a plain little room, but a tender recollection hangs around it, for up and down that room the young lawyer paced in his sorrow over the death of his first love, ANNA RUTLEDGE.

When Mr. LINCOLN was studying law he resided some distance from Springfield. On his way to the city he had to pass through the small village of Petersburg, about fifteen miles from the capital. He used to ride a stubby white horse. He cut a funny figure, for he used to take off his shoes and stockings, and tie them on to the back of the horse. With a book in his hand, his pantaloons rolled well up, and his long bare legs dangling over the sides of the horse, he was totally unconscious of the amusement he afforded the village children. One day the father of one of them caught them laughing, and said, gravely: "Children, do not make fun of that man. He is very talented, and you will live to see that he will make a mark in the world."

One of those children, a little girl, when grown to womanhood, was one of the multitude who pressed forward to see his body as it lay in state, and as she bent over the coffin, there flashed back upon her memory the recollection of the barefoot youth whose early days contained so much of hardship. Her father's prediction had been verified indeed.

Mr. LINCOLN's statue is a work of art. It stands eleven feet in height. Beneath the statue is the coat of arms of the United States. This statue was erected at the cost of \$13,700. At each corner of the shaft a circular pedestal

Boston Globe for December 9, 1897 claimed that  
the tree was planed<sup>x</sup> by Lincoln.

Picture taken while stump still stood.

Tree blown over.

Top out.

First top blown out.

Larger of the two trees did smaller one broke  
off.

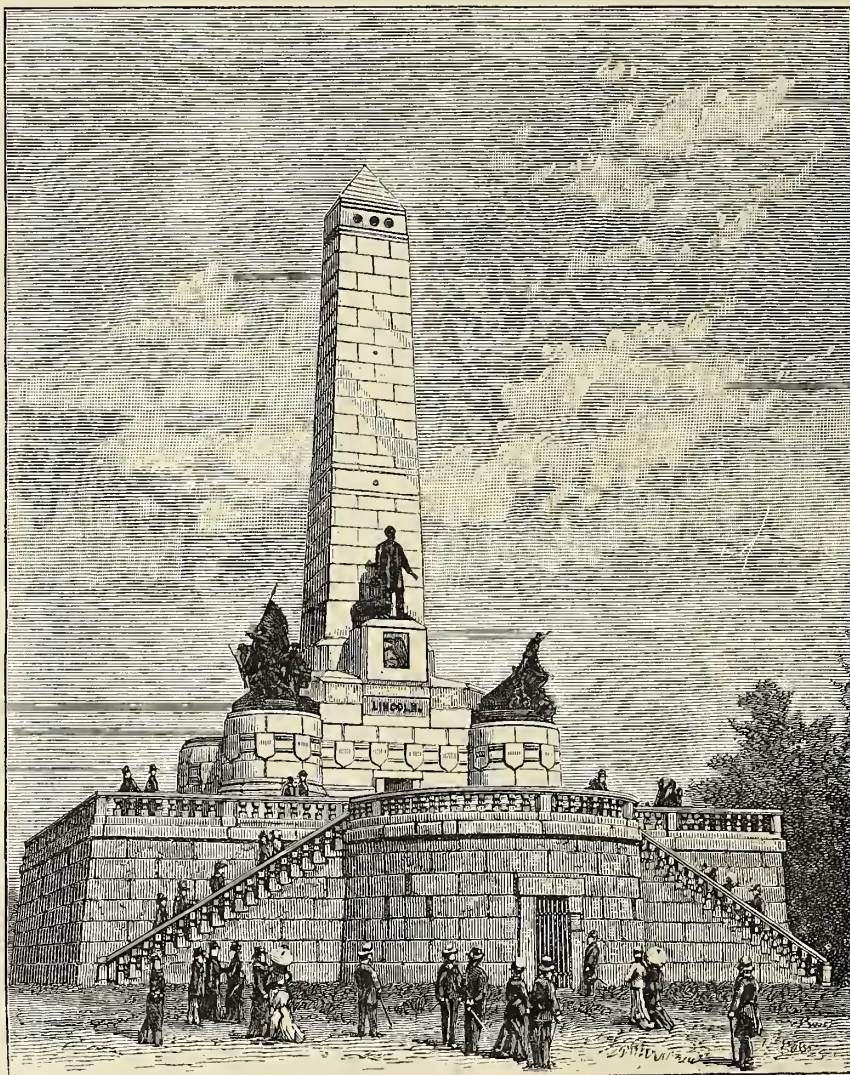


ten feet in diameter rises to the height of twelve feet. Two of these pedestals are surmounted by groups of statuary in bronze, one representing the Army, the other the Navy. When finished, there will be groups of the Cavalry and of the Artillery.

Oak Ridge Cemetery derives its name from a forest of oaks, and is situated about two miles north of the capital. Here lie the remains of President LINCOLN. They repose in a catacomb with an arched ceiling, and a marble floor twelve feet square. Upon one end of the sarcophagus is carved a wreath of oak leaves, surrounding the name LINCOLN, and outside of the wreath are the memorable words, "With malice toward none; with charity for all."

Two crypts contain the remains of Mr. LINCOLN's deceased children, and those yet unoccupied are designed for the remaining members of his family. Mrs. LINCOLN has often been heard to say that she will never be buried there.

Memorial Hall is a room in the monument, twenty-four by thirty-two feet, and is designed for the reception of memorials of ABRAHAM LINCOLN. Among those preserved there is a block of stone taken from a wall of Rome built during the reign of SERVIUS TULLIUS, and which was sent to the President by some Roman patriots. The inscription is in Latin, of which the following is a translation: "To ABRAHAM LINCOLN, President for the second time of the American republic, the citizens of Rome present this stone from the wall of SERVIUS TULLIUS, by which the memory of those brave asserters of liberty may be associated. Anno 1865."



THE LINCOLN MONUMENT.





#### THE FALL OF THE LINCOLN ELM

This tree was planted by Abraham Lincoln in front of his house at Springfield, Illinois, on the day he left for Washington to be inaugurated as President. It was blown over by a fierce storm that struck Springfield on the night of Friday, August 17, 1906. The neighbors of Lincoln took great pride in this elm and its loss shocked the city. It is expected that the tree will now be cut to pieces and its remains converted into souvenirs.



RESIDENCE OF ARDAN H. JONES AT SPRINGFIELD, ILL.

1895 ?





Lincoln's Home, Springfield, Ill.

Sent Card





dated 1907

We can make better copy.





*This on back of picture.*

LINCOLN HOME  
430 South 8th Street

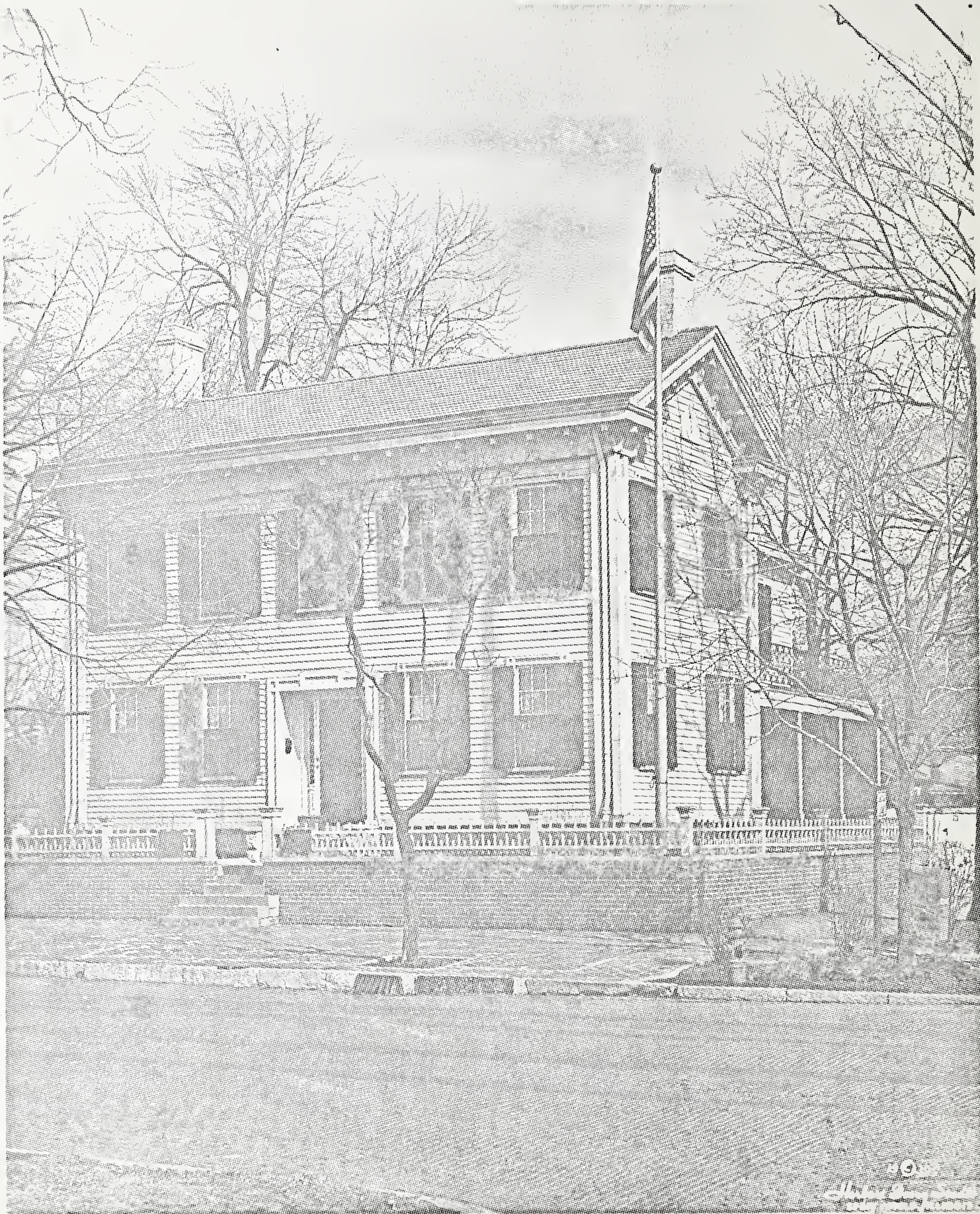
Springfield, Illinois,  
February 1, 1922.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This is to certify that this stump was taken from an elm tree which stood in front of the LINCOLN HOME, 430 South 8th St., Springfield, Illinois, as shown in the attached photograph, and according to information received from relatives and others who were personally acquainted with Mr. Lincoln, the tree was planted by him before he was elected President. This tree, then a small sapling, is shown in the photograph of the LINCOLN HOME taken before Mr. Lincoln was elected President and the photo is now on exhibit at the Homestead.

*Mary Edwards Brown*  
CUSTODIAN OF LINCOLN HOME





new tree that didn't make it.



# PUBLIC LIBRARY FORT WAYNE, INDIANA LINCOLN LORE

Bulletin of the Lincoln National Life Foundation - - - - - Dr. Louis A. Warren, Editor.  
Published each week by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, of Fort Wayne, Indiana.

No. 298

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

December 24, 1934

## THE SPRINGFIELD HOME OF THE LINCOLNS

One of the most valued treasures which the State of Illinois possesses is the Springfield home of Abraham Lincoln. The atmosphere of the Christmas season invites us to review in some detail the history of the house in which three of the Lincoln children were born, and where the early childhood days of all of the boys were spent.

### *The Dresser Cottage—1839*

In 1839 Rev. Charles Dresser, minister of the Presbyterian Church at Springfield, purchased a house lot at the corner of Eighth and Jackson Streets. It had a frontage of fifty feet on Eighth Street and one hundred and fifty feet on Jackson. He erected on this lot a story-and-a-half frame cottage with at least two rooms on the second floor.

### *Lincoln Purchases Dresser Property—1844*

January 7, 1844, Charles Dresser signed an agreement to sell his property to Abraham Lincoln for \$1,200, plus a shop opposite the public square valued at about \$300. On May 2, 1844, Charles Dresser and his wife deeded their home to Lincoln, who took possession.

### *The First Tenants—1848*

About four years after the acquisition of the property, Lincoln served a term in Congress, and leased the home for one year to Cornelius Ludlum for \$90, reserving the use of "the north room upstairs" in which to store his furniture.

### *The Brick Fence—1850*

In 1850, Lincoln decided to build a fence with a brick foundation, extending along the front of the house and also for a short distance along Jackson Street. He estimated it should be about fifty feet long and wrote to a local brick maker about furnishing the material necessary. In a memorandum prepared by Lincoln, on June 8, 1856, he stated that in June, 1855, he had been furnished bricks for the foundation of a fence, so it is not likely it was completed until this time. The tall wall and fence would have a tendency to make the low cottage appear to a disadvantage, and this may have been indirectly responsible for the improvements which were made about which there has been so much discussion.

### *Another Story Added—1856*

The Illinois State Journal of January 6, 1857, listed the new building improvements made in Springfield during the year 1856. Among those noted was an "Addition to house on Eighth Street for A. Lincoln. Cost \$1,300. Hannan and Ragsdale, architects and builders."

The story that Mary Todd took the initiative in the improvement project and had the addition built unknown to Lincoln, while he was away on the circuit, lacks confirmation. If the major part of the work was done during his absence, it was probably started shortly after Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln sold two lots at Bloomington on April 12, 1856, for the sum of \$400. This may have prompted the addition, as it was just after this, in fact the following day, that Lincoln started on the long circuit which may not have brought him home until June 2, although there are three week-ends in which he might have made a trip to Springfield and been back on the circuit Monday morning.

At this time, also, a tree was planted in front of the remodeled house, which added much to the appearance of the home in later years. The growth of this tree has furnished a proper measuring rod for a chronological arrangement of the many pictures taken of the house.

### *The Home of the New President—1861*

Upon the election of Lincoln to the presidency in 1860, next to the pictures of members of his family, a portrait of the home in which he lived had the greatest human interest. *Leslie's Weekly* for November 17, 1860, reproduced a picture of the dwelling and also gave a short description of the house as follows:

"The simple home of this American Statesman and President-Elect of the United States is situated on the corner of Eighth and Edward Streets, and here he has resided twenty years out of the three and twenty he has been a dweller in Springfield. It stands on a sort of platform of brickwork, and is two stories high, having two windows on each side of the door and five on the upper story. The side view shows that it has an extension and side entrance, with a receding stoop running the whole length of the extension. In the rear are the stables and barn. The edifice is painted of a pale chocolate color, and the window blinds are of deep green. The roof extends a little over the edges, like that of a Swiss cottage. The rooms are elegantly and comfortable furnished with strong, well-made furniture, made for use and not for show. On the front door is a black door plate, on which, in silvered Roman characters, is inscribed the magical name,

A. Lincoln.

"Here dwells the great exponent of Republicanism and the victor of Stephen A. Douglas in 1858. It has no ornaments, no deftly-trimmed shrubberies, no marble vases; it is all in keeping with the man—plain, unpretending, comfortable and substantial."

### *Tenants from 1861 to 1877*

Before the Lincolns left for Washington in 1861, they sold most of their furniture to T. Tilton, President of the Great Western Railroad, who had rented the house. The Tiltens remained there until 1869.

The next tenant was George H. Harlow, the Illinois Secretary of State. He and his family occupied the house for eight years. Dr. Wendlandt rented it about 1877; and three years later O. H. Oldroyd leased the property from Robert Lincoln.

### *The Oldroyd Occupancy—1880-1887*

The coming to Springfield of Mr. Oldroyd was a very fortunate circumstance, and he immediately restored the house to something like its original form and opened it to the public as a museum. Here he displayed the valuable collection of Lincolniana which he had been gathering for twenty-five years or more.

After occupying the house for several years, Mr. Oldroyd interested Robert Lincoln in presenting the property to the State of Illinois for a museum. After Mr. Lincoln had been assured that the state wanted the property and the legislature had agreed in 1887 to take charge of it and maintain it, it was deeded to the state.

### *In Possession of the State—1887*

After the state had acquired a title to the Lincoln home, Mr. Oldroyd was retained as the first official custodian, which office he held until 1892, when a change in administration caused his removal; and the valuable collection of Lincolniana, which he had been assembling for years, was moved to Washington and displayed in the house where Lincoln died. Other custodians have followed Mr. Oldroyd and contributed to the enjoyment of the thousands of visitors who have registered at the Lincoln home each year.

### *The House Restored*

During the last decade there have been many improvements made about the place. A piece of property directly north of the Lincoln home was acquired and the old building thereon was razed. The interior of the house has been restored to approximately the same condition as it was when occupied by the Lincolns, and the general appearance has been greatly improved. It is gratifying to know that detailed drawings have been made and preserved by the state, which would make possible its duplication in case it were destroyed.



# LINCOLN LORE

Bulletin of the Lincoln National Life Foundation - - - - - Dr. Louis A. Warren, Editor  
Published each week by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Number 773

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

January 31, 1944

## PHOTOGRAPHS OF LINCOLN'S HOME

There is not a residence in what once comprised the old Northwest Territory, which has been more often photographed than the home of Abraham Lincoln, at Springfield, Illinois. It was just 100 years ago on January 16, 1844, that the first legal papers were signed, which looked forward to the early occupancy of the home by Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln.

The minister who was engaged to marry Abraham Lincoln and Mary Todd, the Rev. Charles Dresser, rector of the Episcopal Church, lived in a cottage he had built in 1840, on the northeast corner of Eighth and Jackson Streets. It was the intention of Abraham and Mary to have been married in this parsonage, and if Mrs. Edwards, Mary's sister, had not insisted that the wedding take place in her home, the young people would have been married in the house which within a few months was to become their own.

On February 5, 1844, Lincoln made a payment of \$750.00 on the contract price of \$1200.00, and in which there was also involved a piece of real estate on the public square, valued at \$300.00. The deal was consummated by the signing of a deed of conveyance on the following May 2nd, when the Lincolns took possession. So the first and only home the Lincolns ever owned was originally a manse.

### *The Cottage*

The dwelling at the time it was purchased by Lincoln was a story and a half cottage, and few improvements were made until 1850, when a fence with a brick foundation was constructed. When the family had reached a total of five, the Lincolns were in need of more room, and another story was added to the cottage in 1856, at a cost of \$1300.00. This would bring the cost of the property, including the improvement, to about \$3000.00, and this is the amount for which Lincoln had the place insured.

It is not likely that the story and a half cottage was ever photographed, previous to the remodeling, although some drawings have been made of it which probably are fairly accurate. Just when the first picture of the home was made, it is difficult to say. There is a rather ingenious method of determining the probable dates when the pictures of the Lincoln home were taken. Sometime previous to 1860, an elm tree was set out by Mr. Lincoln in front of his home, and it serves as a measuring rod for the chronological identification of the many pictures taken of the building up to 1906.

### *The Candidate's Residence*

J. C. Whipple, of Boston, went to Springfield after Lincoln's nomination to the presidency, on May 18, 1860, and took at least two photographs of the Lincoln home. These pictures of the building show Mr. Lincoln in the front yard with two of his sons, "Willie" and "Tad." There is also to be observed in one of the two different prints the picture of a small boy in front of the house. He is identified as Isaac Diller, who recently passed away, at Springfield, at the age of eighty-nine years.

Previous to the taking of these photographs, Robothan, the artist, visited Springfield on his trip through the Lincoln country of Kentucky, Indiana, and Illinois, probably in May, 1860, and made a drawing of the Lincoln home. It is his work which is reproduced in what may be the first picture of the Lincoln home to appear in a book—Barrett's *Life of Lincoln*, published in 1865. Brockett's *Life of Lincoln*, published the same year, also shows a picture of the home, but it is an idealized view made from one of the Whipple photographs. The first really fine engraving of the home appears in Holland's *Life of Lincoln*.

One of the most interesting and widely circulated photographs of the building was taken on August 8, 1860. A large political rally was being held in Springfield, and a parade, which was passing the Lincoln home, stopped long enough to be photographed in front of the dwelling.

### *The President's Homestead*

It is difficult to discover original photographs taken of the residence while the Lincolns were making their home at Washington, from 1861 to 1865. An engraving made by J. Manz, of Chicago, and another appearing in *Harper's Weekly* for May 20, 1865, were probably made from photographs taken during this period.

### *The Martyr's House*

Upon the assassination of Abraham Lincoln the building was immediately draped in black. The Lincoln National Life Foundation has several original photographs taken of the house while wearing its mourning garments. Several of them bear the imprint of "F. W. Ingmire, City Galleries, West side of Public Square, Springfield, Ill." The earliest photograph of the building draped in mourning shows the decorator's ladder against a fence, and all the trimmings are in perfect order, as if the work had just been finished.

There were several group pictures made at the time of the funeral, with the house serving as a background. The most common one shows a very large delegation which almost fills the yard and the sidewalk. A group of one hundred Chicago citizens is another well-known picture. In a still smaller group there appears the delegates from Washington, containing twenty-one men, U. S. Senators and Congressmen. In another picture Lincoln's old horse, covered with a mourning blanket, is photographed with attendants, and in front of the house a dozen or more citizens stand on the sidewalk. A group consisting of eleven men, women and children with one of the boys up in the top of the elm tree was also taken in front of the President's former home.

These group pictures taken on May 2nd, the day of the funeral and also the day following, show the elm tree just starting to put out its leaves, but a later picture, by Ingmire, reveals the tree in full foliage with the decorations still up, but badly disarranged.

### *The Rental Property*

The last tenant to occupy the home under the ownership of Robert Lincoln was O. H. Oldroyd, who is said to have encouraged Robert Lincoln to give the property to the state. Possibly the first pictures of the home to have a wide distribution were single views and stereoscope pictures taken on August 8, 1885, and sold by Oldroyd at twenty-five cents each. Over the front door of the house there appeared a sign with this inscription, "Lincoln Residence."

### *A State Shrine*

After the home became a state shrine in 1887, much more interest was taken in the building and *The First Biennial Report of the Lincoln Household Trustees*, published in 1889, carries an engraving of the home by Blomgreen Bros. The back fence was taken down and a cannon and flagpole placed in the backyard. Several hundred dollars were spent on repairs at this time, and Bullard and Bullard, architects, were paid \$50.00 for "taking measurements and preparing full drawings of the home."

On August 17, 1906, the historic elm tree which stood in front of the home and made it possible through its growth to give proper chronological sequence to the pictures of the house, was destroyed by a storm.

It is not generally known that the famous home itself was in danger of being destroyed two years later during a race riot in Springfield. A Springfield news dispatch of August 18, 1908 stated: "It developed to-day that an attempt was made late Saturday night to burn the house of Abraham Lincoln. A torch had been lighted and applied to the building but it was discovered in time by a woman living in the neighborhood and the fire was extinguished with little damage."



Ref: 7311/2/ /52

BRITISH EMBASSY  
WASHINGTON

July 24, 1952.

Dear Bert Sheldon:

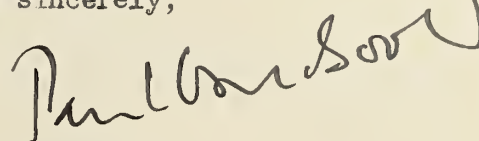
We have done a bit of researching in connection with your letter of July 5 about the story of trees being planted in the Botanic Garden in 1865 by President Lincoln and "the English Ambassador".

The information available here is rather perplexing and not very helpful.

It appears that Lord Lyons, the British Minister (there was no ambassador at the time) left Washington on December 5, 1864, leaving the legation in charge of Mr. Hugh Burnley, First Secretary. The new Minister, Sir Frederick Bruce, arrived in Washington on April 9, 1865, and was to have presented his credentials on April 15 but on account of the President's assassination did not do so until April 20. We have not been able to trace an actual date for the planting of a tree. The Library of Congress have done their best to help us, as have the National Archives and the Botanic Gardens, but there seems to have been no record left of the event.

I wonder whether you can pin the date down any more closely. If you could, it might then be worth while making an enquiry in London, but I hesitate to do this, especially in the light of the above information, unless we can give them something a little more exact. What do you suggest?

Yours sincerely,



P.H. Gore-Booth.

Mr. Bert Sheldon,  
The Civil War Round Table,  
4827 43rd Place N.W.  
Washington 16, D.C.

Copy for Gerald  
McMurtry

4827 43rd Place N W  
Washington 16 D C  
July 27 1952

Mr Paul H Gore-Booth  
British Embassy  
Washington D C

Dear Mr Gore-Booth

I am indeed sorry that I have apparently sent you on such an energetic search after information regarding the several trees planted "in 1865" by the British Minister, by President Lincoln and by General U S Grant in the Botanical Gardens located in the Nation's Capital.

My first information on this came from one of those large-heavy Government Printing Office books on Washington D C by Paul Cammerer in a small paragraph in which he invites attention to these several trees. My next source was on a visit to Library of Congress; contained in the Sunday sepia photogravure section was a full-page spread of the 100th anniversary of the Botanical Gardens, pictured were these several tress.

My contact with Botanical Gardens gave absolutely no results whatever. However: perhaps it has not come to your attention that I am a D C Metropolitan policeman. Working with me in the same 10th Precinct is a young rather nice lad named Hess. I asked him if he ever heard of the John Hess pictured in the Sunday sepia section, he replied "Why he was my father". This boy's mother has a large unpublished manuscript on the Botanical Gardens, along with a photo of the Lincoln tree which was an English Hornbeam -- or, is it Hornbeam tree.

Unfortunately, I have not got any further break there either. I expect later on I shall have the photo copied. I believe there has not been anything found in the unpublished manuscript regarding these three trees. So: that source has not as yet been too productive either.

I, therefore, am at a standstill on the matter.

Private Gordon A Hess tells me that he was born on the grounds of the Botanical Grounds as the caretaker, or rather Superintendent, lived there at that time, tho the house is now torn down. He mentioned that several of the very much older employees recall the Lincoln Hornbeam tree, but, they think it was too old and too big to move when Second Street was cut through. Now, it would be an easy matter. You should see the trees that are being moved out in Soldiers Home grounds ~~Wash~~. Pvt Hess tells me of some woman from the Capitol, who may have been the wife of a Congressman who used to come and sit for hours under the Lincoln Hornbeam, that she once expressed some emotional interest in so sitting.

I thought you might like to add this much more to your file on the several tress, the one from the Tomb of Confucius planted by the British Minister, the <sup>A</sup>cacia planted by General Grant and the Hornbeam by Prest Lincoln. Please do not bother to answer this note, I'll see you some evening at C W R T meeting -- I hope. Again: sincerest compliments indeed for the splendid adress you gave us on the reationship between the U S and Great Britain during the Civil Wsr. Kindest regards from

Yours Truly,

BERT SHELDON

Bert Sheldon



# ILLINOIS STATE HISTORICAL LIBRARY

CENTENNIAL BUILDING     SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706



November 7, 1966

Dr. R. Gerald McMurtry  
Lincoln National Life Foundation  
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Gerald:

Enclosed is what little I have been able to find on the tree at Lincoln's Home. The little item by Mary Edwards Brown seems to be the best. I think you know who she was. Only a few of our pictures are dated. I think we had the stump here in storage at the Library at one time, but it has since been destroyed. I also find records of souvenirs such as picture frames, etc. that were made from the tree. I could find no articles in books or periodicals on it.

There is no charge for the pictures and I believe there will not be for the Huntington statue picture which you should have soon.

Sincerely yours,

James T. Hickey  
Curator, Lincoln Collection

JTH:njd  
Encl.



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HOWARD F. RISSLER  
*Editor*







## A Tree Grew In Springfield

An elm tree once stood next to the sidewalk in front of the Lincoln home in Springfield. It was located very near the corner of Eighth and Jackson Streets. Local tradition relates that the tree was planted by Abraham Lincoln sometime before he was elected to the Presidency.

The Lincolns moved into their home in the Spring of 1844. The future President purchased the property from the Reverend Charles Dresser, an Episcopal clergyman, who constructed the house in 1839. There is every indication that there was some refurbishing of the property in 1844. However, if Lincoln did not plant the tree at the time he purchased the house, he may have done so in the early months of 1856, when the one and one-half story building was converted into a full two-story structure.

While the elm tree never achieved an exceptionally large growth, it did successfully weather the elements of nature for a period of some fifty or sixty years; and today portions of its branches have been sawed up into picture frames, and from its wood there have been carved innumerable souvenirs.

For awhile, its stump was in storage at the Illinois State Historical Library, but it has since been lost or destroyed. The following statement concerning the tree stump, signed by a custodian of the Lincoln home, has been discovered on the back of a photograph of the Lincoln home which prominently featured the elm:

Lincoln Home  
430 South 8th Street

Springfield, Illinois  
February 1, 1922

### To Whom It May Concern

This is to certify that this stump was taken from an elm tree which stood in front of the Lincoln Home, 430 South 8th St., Springfield, Illinois, as shown in the attached photograph, and according to information received from relatives and others who were personally acquainted with Mr. Lincoln, the tree was planted by him before he was elected President. This tree, then a small sapling, is shown in the photograph of the Lincoln Home



Photograph distributed by Osborn H. Oldroyd, the first custodian (1887-1893) of the Lincoln home.



Photograph bearing rubber stamp "Oldroyd."



Photograph by J. A. Whipple, Springfield, Summer, 1860 (0-39)



Oldroyd wrote on the back of this photograph: "Abraham Lincoln purchased this house in 1844 and lived in it until 1861."



taken before Mr. Lincoln was elected President and the photo is now on exhibit at the Homestead.

*Mary Edwards Brown*

Custodian of Lincoln Home  
Lincoln liked trees, and on one occasion in his public career he mentioned in an address before the Wisconsin State Agricultural Society at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, (September 30, 1859) "... trees, shrubs, fruits, plants, and flowers — the thousand things of which these are specimens — each a world of study within itself."

An anonymous author has expressed very vividly Lincoln's interest in trees:

"Trees were friendly things. As a youth, everywhere he (Lincoln) went were the trees of the primeval forest ... tulips, sycamores, oaks, elms, maples, beeches and walnuts.

"Trees made the flatboats that gave him passage down the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers.

"Trees made the cabins that gave him shelter in bleak weather.

"Trees fed the fire that gave him warmth and lighted the pages of his books.

"Trees made for him a bed of leaves.

"Trees gave him the sugar of the maples, the brown nuts of autumn.

"Trees drove out the mosquitoes with their pungent log-fire smoke.

"Trees drove back the wolf and the panther with their glowing pine knots.

"Yes, and trees made for him crude chairs, tables, beds, axe-helves, ox-yokes, cradles, coffins.

"Trees gave him the rails of walnut and black locust.

"His companionship with trees is attested by the fact that it was his title, 'The Railsplitter,' which helped to carry him to the White House in the presidential campaign of 1860."

Lincoln, while President, told a visitor to Washington that he could remember but two landmarks in Kentucky, the State of his birth, when he left there at seven years of age. One was an old stone house, and the other, "a great tree somewhere on Nolin River."

It is believed the old tree Lincoln remembered so well was a Lunderner poplar, located near an old mill site at Buffalo, Kentucky, on one of the branches of Nolin River. In the 1920s there were still living in Larue County a few old residents who remembered hearing of this famous giant tree, the name being a local term used to designate the English black poplar.

While Lincoln always remembered the great Lunderner poplar in Kentucky, his favorite tree was the hard maple. To Lincoln, the hard maple had a quality of beauty that was always a gratification to his concept of what constituted a triumph of nature. It was Charles F. Mills, Secretary of the State Board of Agriculture, Springfield, Illinois, who inquired of Lincoln's son regarding the President's favorite tree. Robert T. Lincoln, on March 30, 1888, wrote Mr. Mills: "In reply to your favor of yesterday, I remember having heard my father speak more specially of the hard maple as a tree which gratified him by its beauty."

Yet, Lincoln selected an elm for his Springfield home, and the December 3, 1899 issue of the *New York Tribune* published a tribute to the "Noble Tree Lincoln Planted:"

You stand within the shade of a tree at Springfield, Ill. It is, somehow, different from any other tree, and yet you may have stood within the shade of hundreds, perhaps thousands, of other trees.

You put your hand gently upon that tree. It is far different from any other tree you may have touched, and yet you may have touched hundreds, perhaps thousands, of other trees — trees of the same species of wood, trees similar in size, and trees much larger and those much smaller, but you never touched a tree as gently, as reverently, as you did this one.

You look at the tree and study it. You have seen thousands of trees of natural origin and growth and those planted with human hands — trees for surpassing this one in their beauty in architecture or more queer in the manner in which nature had fixed their trunks and branches.

It is a fruit tree. It bears the year round and every day. Fruit has been gathered from it by many thousands of people, and its quantity has never been diminished. The supply is inexhaustible. The fruit is of a kind that does not satisfy the hunger but increases it. You cannot see the fruit, but you can gather it.

It is grandly inspiring to look upon that tree, and yet it has not a single element of the majesty we hear spoken of trees. It would be a tree without an admirer did it stand unknown in the forests or in some orchard or favorite park. If it were like other trees it might be cut down, but not for the value of the lumber to be gotten out of it; it would be for its use as fuel, or for the purpose of replacing it with one more beautiful — and yet no man will ever be so mean as to cut this tree down, nor a man, woman, or child be so unthoughtful

(Continued on page 4)



Osborn H. Oldroyd standing near the elm before the Lincoln home. On the back of this photograph he wrote, "I moved (1883) into this house (the home of President Lincoln when he was elected President) with my collection of Lincoln memorials relating to the martyred."



This photograph bears the date of June 8, 1889. The branches of the tree indicate that it has undergone considerable trimming.



The excessive trimming of the elm tree, as indicated by this photograph, would lead one to believe that it would not have long to live.



Following the storm of August 17, 1906, the stump of the elm tree was allowed to stand for a short period. This photograph was taken in 1907.

Lincoln's elm in its various stages of growth has furnished a proper measuring rod for a chronological arrangement of the many photographs that have been taken of the Springfield home. Illustrating this article are eight photographs, taken from the Foundation's files, which depict the elm tree. Some can be dated.



## Some Correspondence Between John Hay and Helen Nicolay

(Continued from the February issue)

### Part 3

It would naturally be expected that the author would submit the manuscript to her old friend, Colonel Hay.

On December 19, 1904 Hay wrote Miss Nicolay:

My dear Helen:

I read your book yesterday with the greatest interest. I have only one fault to find with it, and I imagine that is entirely an imaginary one. It is well enough written for grown folks, and your publisher may possibly — though I hope not — feel that this is an objection in a book written primarily for young people. But, as I have said before to you, I do not consider that quality in the least objectionable. I know the books that I enjoyed the most when I was a child were books written for grown ups. I have no criticism to make and no changes to propose. It seems to me an excellent piece of work.

Yours faithfully  
John Hay

To give some authenticity to "The Boys' Life" The Century Company suggested to Miss Nicolay that a "little preface" by Mr. John Hay would be most appropriate. This idea was incorporated into a letter dated January 28, 1905.

Dear Miss Nicolay:

We have had the manuscript of your boys' "Lincoln" carefully read, and it is very much liked here. I think we all agree in respect to a few changes or condensations in some of the earlier chapters, which we believe would not be difficult for you to make.

I am writing now to inquire whether you are likely to be in New York shortly, so that we might have a conference. It is so much easier to talk over a matter of this kind than attempt to arrange it by correspondence, but if you are not coming here possibly we might send some one to Washington to meet you there.

Our idea would be to bring the book out for next autumn's sales. To do this it should soon be put in type, so that we might have dummies for our traveling salesmen to show during the summer months at the time they visit the booksellers.

Do you think you could get Mr. John Hay to write a little preface, however brief? His doing so would be a great help to the sale of the book, in the beginning, at least.

Believe me

... Chichester

After receiving Mr. Chichester's letter, Miss Nicolay wrote Colonel Hay on "Wednesday morning":

Dear Colonel Hay:

Do you remember the paragraph about the preface in Mr. Chichester's note I showed you the other day?

Of course it is needless to say how pleased I would be if you would write a few words; but I haven't the least idea that you want to do such a thing. Indeed I think you told me once that you made it the rule of your life never to write preface's for other people's books. I can imagine the avalanche of MSS. that would descend upon you if you once broke that rule, and how you would have to scratch away with your pen fifteen hours a day to keep from being totally smothered. And what would Diplomacy do then?

Seriously, the suggestion seemed so far-fetched that I did not give it a moment's thought, and absolutely forgot to say anything about it when we were talking about the matter of the letter.

It is borne in upon me that Mr. Chichester will not have forgotten however, and that he will ask that particular question before all others — and that Mr. Scott will also ask it if I see him. So would you mind Scribbling a word on this to let me know if I am right as to your position? I would not for the world bring woe upon you — but if you are just looking for trouble — behold — the Boy's Lincoln — at your feet.

Sincerely yours  
Helen Nicolay

In rather shaky handwriting John Hay answered Miss Nicolay's letter with a pencilled note, written in bed from his residence at 800 Sixteenth Street, Lafayette Square:

Dear Helen:

I can't do it — and you are so sweetly reasonable about it that I do not suffer much in refusing

Yours

J. H.

In the early months of 1905 Helen Nicolay made some tentative plans to visit Mexico, and before Colonel Hay made his last trip to Europe in search of health, she related to him her desire to visit that country. From Naples, Italy on April 5th he wrote her as follows:

Dear Helen

I was so worthless during my last days in Washington I did nothing I ought. But I have addressed a letter to our Ambassador in Mexico telling him to look out for you and do everything for you that he would for the Queen of Hearts herself. That will avail you, if you go, and this will let you know the letter has gone, whether you go or not.

We have had a wonderful voyage. The ship is steady as a church. Mrs. Hay has been on deck every day — a wonderful record. Such a thing has not happened since she was a child.

She sends her love

Yours faithfully  
John Hay

Miss Nicolay was unable to make the trip to Mexico and on April 25th she wrote Colonel Hay as follows:

Dear Colonel Hay:

Yours of April 1st came to me last night. I feel so reproached! Mrs. Hay's little note was received and I was much touched at her taking time to write it before the ship sailed, when you were feeling so ill and wretched. My impulse was to answer it at once, but on reflection I concluded that since you had run away from folks you would probably rather not have them reaching after you with letters. So I planned to have a note waiting for her on your return. She gave me your message to Mr. Babcock. It did not occur to me that you would do anything more about the letter to Mexico. Today I learn that you have had the miserable thing on your mind! I am so sorry. Thank you a thousand times — and please do not have such a tender conscience any more.

As it turned out, we were unable to go. Miss Fletcher fell ill and the weather jumped into midsummer — two reasons for abandoning it. We may go in the fall — but I doubt it.

Do you care for the latest Boy's Lincoln news? I'm invited to let St. Nicholas print it as a serial — beginning next November — \$500.00 for that, and what fate wills for the book, later. This makes me chuckle, as I happen to know it was considered "too instructive" in February. It must be woefully demoralized by those changes I made after coming home from New York.

At present the Spoffords and I are living in a world of blossoms out at the country place. Everything that can bloom is doing it — all at once. And I am planning to go to Holderness about May 15th to enjoy the spring all over again.

The tulips are gay in front of your house. So is the gold-tipped iron fence. But the tulips, like the Yanks get "a little the best of it!"

People are very much gratified at the news of your improvement. I overhear conversations about you on the street almost every time I go into town. Some of them pretend great intimacy. Others are frankly speculative. All are kindly. This morning one woman remarked to another that she hoped you'd come back soon — you were "such a nice man to have around"

Please give my best love to Mrs. Hay — and come back — not too soon — much as we like to have you "around"

Sincerely yours  
Helen N.

These last two letters may have ended the correspondence between Colonel Hay and Miss Nicolay. The Hays returned to the United States on June 15th and the ailing Secretary of State went directly to the State Department. On June 24th Hay went to his summer home, "The Fells," at Newbury, on Lake Sunapee, New Hampshire. After his arrival in New Hampshire, his physical condition grew alarmingly worse, and he died about three o'clock in the morning of July 1, 1905. He was buried in the Lake View Cemetery in Cleveland, Ohio.

(Continued on page 4)



## CUMULATIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY 1965-1966

Selections approved by a Bibliography Committee consisting of the following members: Arnold Gates, 289 New Hyde Park Road, Garden City New York; Carl Haverlin, 8619 Louis Avenue, Northridge, California; E. B. Long, 708 North Kenilworth Ave., Oak Park Ill.; Ralph G. Newman, 18 E. Chestnut Street, Chicago, Ill.; Kenneth A. Bernard, Boston University, 725 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, Mass.; Clyde C. Walton, Jr., Illinois State Historical Library, Springfield, Ill.; Judge Warren L. Jones, U. S. Court of Appeals, Jacksonville, Fla.; Hon. Fred Schwengel, 636 Union Arcade, Davenport, Iowa. New items available for consideration may be sent to the above addresses or to the Lincoln National Life Foundation.

## — 1965 —

BACHELDER, LOUISE 1965-78

Abraham/Lincoln/Wisdom/& Wit/(device)/Edited by Louise Bachelder, with/Illustrations by Jeff Hill/The Peter Pauper Press/Mount Vernon, New York. [Copyright 1965 by Peter Pauper Press]

Brochure, stiff boards, 4 3/4" x 7 3/4", 61 pp., price \$1.25.

GRUBER, MICHAEL 1965-79

Abraham/Lincoln/A Concise Biography/by Michael Gruber/Series Editor:/Roberta Strauss Feuerlicht/American R.D.M. Corporation/Publisher New York. [Copyright 1965 by Michael Gruber]

Pamphlet, flexible boards, fr., 72 pp., illus., price \$1.00.

## — 1966 —

ALEXANDER, MARDA 1966-29

Pictorial History and Guide Book/The Lincoln/Home/Springfield/Illinois/(picture of home)/With Historical Text by Marda Alexander. (Cover title) [Copyright 1966 by Curt Teich & Co., Inc., Chicago, Ill.]

Pamphlet, flexible boards, 7 1/2" x 5 1/2", (18) pp., illus.

BERNARD, KENNETH A. 1966-30

Lincoln and the Music/of the Civil War/By/Kenneth A. Bernard/Professor of History/Boston University/(device)/Illustrated with Photographs/(device)/The Caxton Printers, Ltd./Caldwell, Idaho/1966. [Copyright by The Caxton Printers, Ltd. 1966]

Book, cloth, 9 1/4" x 6 1/2", xix p., 333 pp., illus., fr., index, price \$6.95.

MILLER, NATALIE 1966-31

The Story/of the/Lincoln/Memorial/By Natalie Miller/Illustrations by Tom Dunnington/(sketch of memorial)/(device) Childrens Press, Inc. [Copyright 1966, Childrens Press, Inc.]

Brochure, 9 3/4" x 8 1/4", cloth, 30 pp., illus., price \$1.95.

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Lincoln and Lee/By/Bell Irvin Wiley/Harmsworth Professor of American History/An Inaugural Lecture/Delivered before the University of Oxford/on 19 January 1966/Oxford/At The Clarendon Press/1966. [Copyright Oxford University Press 1966. Printed in Great Britain]

Pamphlet, paper, 8 1/2" x 5 1/2", 18 pp.

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Lincoln Memorial University Press/Fall, 1966/Vol. 68, No. 3/Lincoln Herald/A Magazine devoted to historical research in the field of Indiana and/of Lincoln Ideals in American/Education. [Harrogate, Tennessee]

Pamphlet, flexible boards, 10" x 7", pp. 107-166, illus. Price per single copy \$1.00.

SPRINGFIELD ASSOCIATION OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY 1966-36

Map of Central District/Springfield/Illinois/Welcome to Springfield! (sketch of Lincoln Tomb) The Springfield Association of Commerce and Industry is the . . . /Convention and Visitors Council/Springfield Association of Commerce and Industry/325 East Adams Street [Cover title]

Folder, paper, 8 1/2" x 3 1/2", (3) pp. (Map of Springfield with list of places of Lincoln interest)

ILLINOIS — DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION DIVISION OF PARKS & MEMORIALS 1966-37

The/Lincoln/Tomb/(picture of tomb)Oak Ridge Cemetery Springfield/(state seal) State of Illinois/[Cover title] (Printed by Authority of the State of Illinois.)

Folder, paper, 9" x 4", (3) pp., illus.

ILLINOIS — DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION DIVISION OF PARKS & MEMORIALS 1966-38

The Home of/Abraham/Lincoln/(picture of Springfield Home)/Crowds of well-wishers were greeted at his doorway by Abraham Lincoln during the 1860 campaign./A Memorial Maintained/by the/State of Illinois/Open Every Day of the Year Except Thanksgiving, Christmas/and New Years from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m./Guide Service always available [Cover title]

Folder, paper, 9" x 4", (5) pp., illus.

ILLINOIS — NEW SALEM STATE PARK 1966-39

Lincoln's/New Salem/State Park/(cut of Fairbanks Statue of Lincoln)/Abraham Lincoln From Lincoln's New/Salem/Statue by Avarid Fairbanks at the entrance to the restored New/Salem Village. Gift to Illinois from the Sons of the Utah Pioneers./State of Illinois/(State Seal) [Cover title]

Folder, paper, 9" x 4", (10) pp., illus.

## A Tree Grew in Springfield

(Continued from page 2)

as to mar it, for it is a tree that was planted by Abraham Lincoln in the front yard of the only home he ever owned, the old home place in Springfield, Ill.

Lincoln's elm tree was destroyed on Friday, August 17, 1906 when it was blown over by a fierce storm that struck the Illinois Capital city. Newspaper accounts of the storm that destroyed the tree indicate that Lincoln's neighbors and friends considered this a great loss and were shocked that this living relic would no longer be a feature attraction for the city's visitor.

Once the stump and roots were removed, another elm was planted in the exact spot; but it soon withered and died, and no further efforts have been made to replace Lincoln's tree.

Today, there are still living many trees associated with the Lincolns, be they corner oaks, Indiana cedars, (Illinois elms), White House maples, portrait trees (due to some peculiar growth in root, branch or leaf) and even a giant Sequoia in California. This redwood tree named "Abe Lincoln" is located on the Alta Meadow Trail in Giant Forest, and is about 270 feet tall and 31 feet in diameter. (Recent measurements are not available).

## Correspondence Between John Hay and Helen Nicolay

(Continued from page 3)

Helen Nicolay died in Washington, D.C., on September 12, 1954. In addition to her *Boys' Life*, she was the author of *Personal Traits of Abraham Lincoln*, and *Lincoln's Secretary*, published as late as 1949 when she was 83 years old. She also wrote numerous other books not related to the Sixteenth President. During her life-time she was the author of twenty-one volumes. She had a very pleasing lecture on Lincoln which she gave before many audiences up to the period of her last illness.



# Oak Will Replace Lincoln Home Elm

BY ART KOZELKA

[Chicago Tribune Press Service]

Springfield, Ill., Nov. 29 — Abraham Lincoln's home in Springfield, maintained as a shrine by the state department of conservation, will provide the setting at 2 p. m. tomorrow for a tree planting ceremony with a two-fold purpose.

The tree to be planted, a 25 foot pin oak, will help to beautify the Lincoln home by replacing an 80-year-old elm that succumbed to Dutch elm disease, and will call attention to the little publicized fact that the oak [species *Quercus*] is Illinois' state tree.

## Allied to Illinois

The tree, as well as the cost of installation, is a donation to the Lincoln home from the Illinois Landscape Contractor's association. Oaks, which include bur, white, red, pin, and other less common species varieties, have a long, outstanding historical association with Illinois.

Thru the years, oaks have been used in building construction, boat building, barrel making, for furniture and wagons, farm implements, and many other uses. The Lincoln home itself is largely made of oak.

William T. Lodge, director of the department of conservation, will dedicate the tree in the name of Gov. Kerner, and will throw the first shovelful of earth around the roots of the newly transplanted tree. Springfield civic leaders and Thomas R. King, president of

the Illinois Landscape Contractor's association, will take part in the ceremony.

## Supervision by Hurr

Actual planting of the specially selected pin oak will be under the supervision of Bacil B. Hurr, landscape contractor and past president of the Landscape Contractor's association.

The new tree will be planted in precisely the same spot where the old elm stood. This made necessary removal of the entire elm stump and its large roots. This was done to leave an unobstructed view of the front of the Lincoln house, and also to leave undisturbed the old paving stones in the parkway where the old tree stood.





